



Holy Trinity
Lutheran
Church
Buffalo, New York

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Buffalo, New York

Sunday, December 5, 2021
Second Sunday in Advent
Celebrating our 143rd Anniversary

Holy Communion - 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to Holy Trinity!

Holy Trinity recognizes that each of us is a unique creation made in the image of God. We celebrate and give thanks for the many diverse gifts that God has bestowed on us.

We proclaim ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation to all of God's creatures welcoming into our ministry persons of every race, culture, age, gender identification, gender expression, sexual orientation, ability, and economic status.

We commit ourselves to the work of anti-racism and creating an anti-racist space through the protection against oppression internally, in institutions, interpersonally and structurally.

We believe that through our openness we all grow in our faith through Christ's teaching to love one another as God loves us.

For the love of one another, we kindly ask

- 1. that you keep your mask on during the duration of this service.*
- 2. that our members and guests fill out the blue sheet and leave at your seat in the pew.*

We look forward to continuing to update our practices as we move forward.

We invite you to share your story and your worship experience!

Check-in and share on any of our social media platforms using #poweroftrinity.

*You can find us on Facebook @holytrinitybuffalo,
on Instagram @holytrinitybuffalo or on twitter @holytrinitybuff*

Large print bulletins are available at the entrance ways

INTRODUCTION

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the LORD of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

PRELUDE

Preludes on 'Veni Emmanuel' and Freu dich Sehr'

Dennis Lovinfosse

(b. 1947)

RINGING OF THE TOWER BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus "Jefferson"

ELW 254



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In our scripture passage for today, Zechariah, a new father, speaks to his newborn son, John the Baptist, for the very first time. I want you to imagine yourself in his shoes . . .

What would you say to a newborn sleeping in your arms? What would you want them to know on their very first day? What would feel important?

I imagine that all of you would speak words of love.

It's impossible not to speak words of love when you're holding a baby, and yet as we grow up, that skill tends to become harder for us to practice. So let us return to our foundation—to words of love, starting with love for ourselves. Let us pray the prayer of confession together.

You are invited to kneel or sit, as you are able.

Holy God,

When John was Born, Zechariah leaned down and whispered words of love into his ear. We know that you do the same for us, day in and day out, yet we fail to hear it. We forget that in the beginning we were made good. We doubt that we could possibly be enough. We hustle for our self-worth and wear ourselves out aiming for perfection. We deflect words of praise. We hide behind shiny first impressions. Forgive us. Trusting our worth is the hardest job. Open our ears as you open our hearts, so that we might rest on the foundation of goodness you have laid for us. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Family of faith, No matter how old we get, God continues to say to us: "You are loved; you are forgiven." That is the foundation of our lives. That is the truth upon which we build our home. So breathe deeply. There is grace and peace here. Join me in proclaiming this good news: We are loved. We are forgiven. We are claimed. This is our foundation. Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

While we light the Advent Wreath we sing together O Come, O Come, Emmanuel: ELW 257 vs. 1 & 2

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh: in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

God, who speaks a good news language—we admit, listening has never been our greatest gift. We are easily distracted, our minds run a million miles a minute. We doubt your faith in us, and take the easy way out when it comes to hope. So today we bow our heads and ask for help. Settle our hearts. Quiet our minds. Steady our breathing. Help us to rest in you. Help us to listen for your good news. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Please be seated.

(10:30)

A WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

The Rev. Brenda Maynor

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

The first reading for the Second Sunday in Advent is recorded in Malachi, the 3rd Chapter.

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(8:30)

THE SOLO

Thus Saith the Lord from *Messiah* HWV 56

Georg Frideric Händel

Text: Haggai 2: 6-7, Malachi 3: 1

(1685-1759)

Timothy Flynn, *bass*

Thus saith the Lord, the Lord of Hosts: Yet once a little while and I will
Shake the heavens and the earth, the sea and the dry land. And I will
Shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come.

The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the
Messenger of the Covenant, whom ye delight in; behold, He shall come,
Saith the Lord of Hosts.

(10:30)

MOTET

Call to Advent

J. Jerome Williams

Text: *Veni Emanuel* and *Piccardy*, Tr.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

The second reading for today is recorded in Philippians, the 1st Chapter.

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

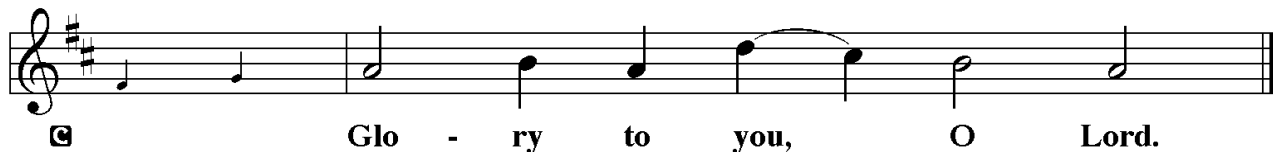
Please stand for the Gospel, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Luke 1:57-80

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke



⁵⁷Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

⁵⁹On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. ⁶⁰But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." ⁶¹They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." ⁶²Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. ⁶³He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. ⁶⁴Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

⁶⁷Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

⁶⁸"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

⁶⁹He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, ⁷⁰as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁷¹that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

⁷²Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant,

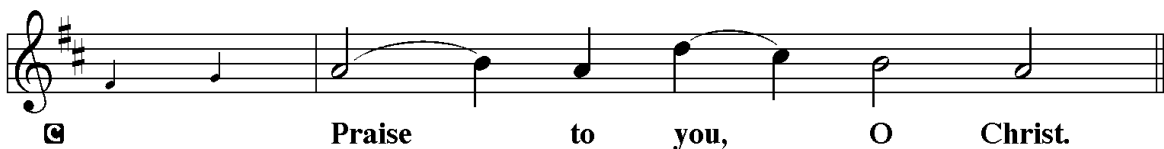
⁷³the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us ⁷⁴that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.

⁷⁸By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, ⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

⁸⁰The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

The gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated.

SERMON

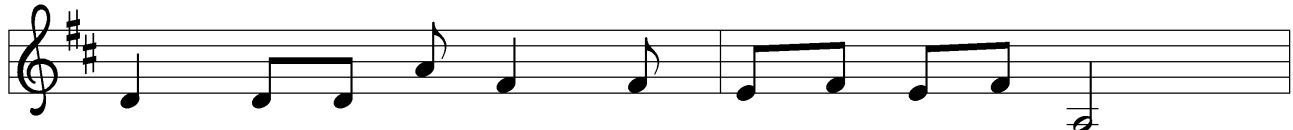
The Rev. Brenda Maynor

Please stand as you are able.

SERMON HYMN

All Earth Is Hopeful "Toda La Tierra"

ELW 266



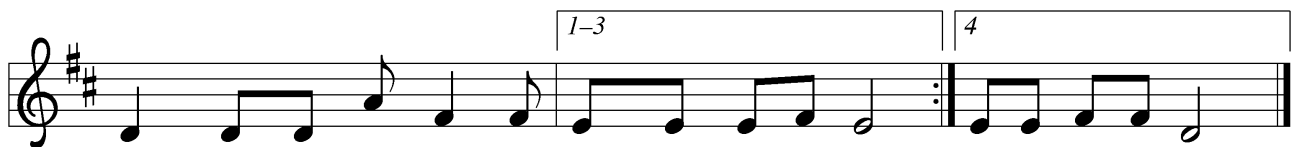
To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
"A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

- 2 *Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel:* 3 *Montes y valles habrá que preparar;*
"De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel," *nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar.*
será "Dios con nosotros," hermano será, *Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar,*
con él la esperanza al mundo volverá. *y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.*

4 *En una cueva Jesús apareció,*
pero en el mundo está presente hoy.
Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está;
y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946

Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé

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CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of days gone by, and God of the here and now—we understand the story of Zechariah. We know what it's like to be speechless. We know what it's like to be awestruck. We know what it's like to change plans and leave everyone whispering. What we don't always know is what the next right step is. We crave your voice in our ear—guiding our steps, revealing the way.

So today, God, we pause to give you thanks for the things that leave us speechless—for love at first sight, for the moments when the doctor says the scan is clear, for the family that runs to meet us at the airport and welcomes us home, for every small miracle and concentrated beauty in our life—we are awestruck.

We are speechless.

We are so deeply grateful.

We pay for the children of our congregation, especially Elliott and Oliver.

We pray for all those serving in the armed forces and their families.

But in between whispers of deep gratitude, are people who are speechless for other reasons.

We are speechless because of the suffering and despair, grief and loss, violence and injustice in our world.

With every young person killed in the street, we lose our breath. With every threat of violence, we lose our words.

With every updated report on climate change, we lose our peace. And the cycle goes on and on and on.

Creator God, who breathed life into us, move between us and our despair. Give us a voice to speak gratitude in the face of beauty, and justice in the face of destruction. Give us words to heal where there is hurt and to invite where there is isolation.

There are so many things that leave us speechless, O God, but we never lose your words of love and hope. For all we pray,

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with one another.

We ask that you remain at your seat.

*You may share the sign of peace
with a head nod or peace sign.*

Let us share with each other a sign of Christ's peace.

Please be seated.

THE OFFERING

*Offerings and tithes may be left in the offering plate
located at the exit.*

(8:30)

SOLO AT THE OFFERING

But Who May Abide from *Messiah* HWV 56

Georg Frideric Händel

Text: Malachi 3:2

(1685 – 1759)

Timothy Flynn, *bass*

But who may abide the day of His coming, and who shall stand when He appeareth?
For He is like a refiner's fire.

(10:30)

MOTET AT THE OFFERING

Advent Motet: O How Shall I Receive Thee

Gustav Schreck

(1849 – 1918)

O how shall I receive Thee, How meet thee on Thy way?
Blest hope of every nation, my soul's delight and stay.
O Jesu, Jesu give me, by Thine illuming light,
To know whate'er is pleasing, and welcome in thy sight.

Zechariah gave one of the greatest gifts he could give to his son. He gave him a foundation of love—words of purpose, pride, love, and belonging.

So, in turn, remembering that joyful day, we try to make a similar impact by giving what we can. And we pray that the gifts we give now—our time, our money, our talents—will be infused by the Spirit to make a more purposeful world of love and belonging that we can be proud of.

So let us give now. Let this be the foundation—the very start—of a better world.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Holy God, You are our home. You and your goodness are the place we return to, the place we long to lay our head. So today as we offer you these gifts, we pray that you would take this offering and turn it into ministry. Use these gifts to transform the world we live in to better reflect the home you have envisioned for us—a home of peace, a home built on the foundation of love. Gratefully we pray, amen.

OFFERTORY

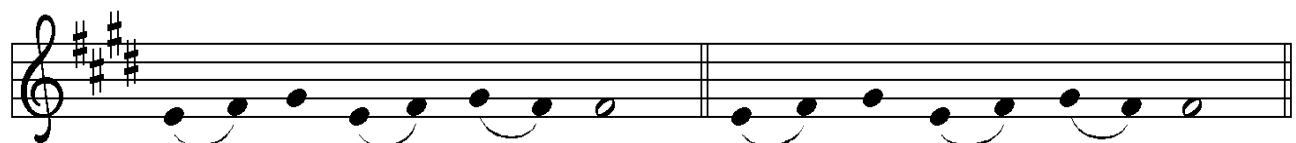
Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

ELW 885


“Old Hundredth”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heav’nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.


DIALOGUE



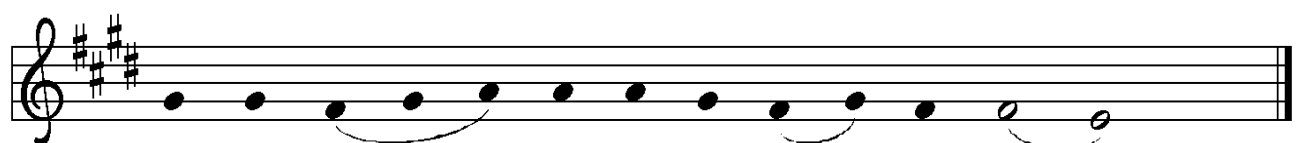
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

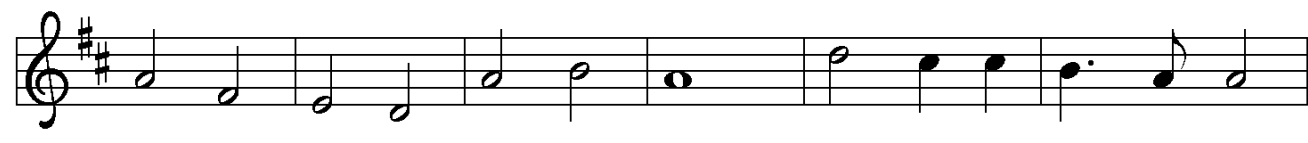


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

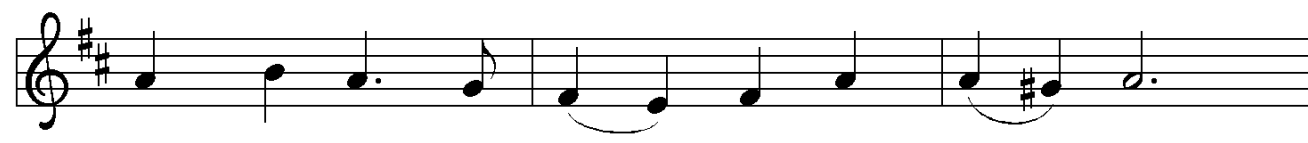
PREFACE

It is indeed right ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS



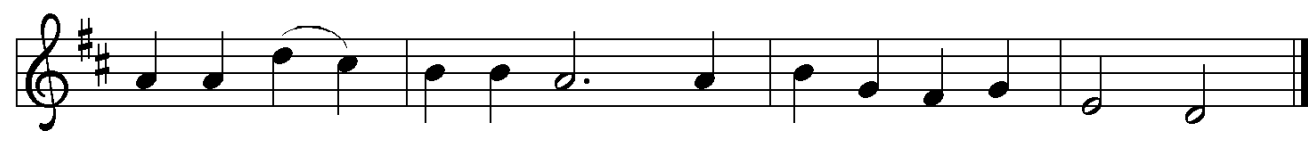
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

THE COMMUNION

Please follow Pastor's instructions on the distribution of communion

All are welcome to share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion at Holy Trinity. At this time we will be serving communion in a contact-less manner. Please take your pre-package communion cup that you received at the entrance (gluten free are available, please see an usher at the entrance). The wafer can be found at the top of the cup (lift up the top, clear layer) and you will be invited to eat the wafer at the word, "The body of Christ given to you." You may then open the grape juice and drink at the word, "The blood of Christ given to you." Please leave the used and unused communion cups in the pews.

Please stand as you are able.

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. Amen.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Compassionate God, as Jesus called disciples to follow him, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound or imprisoned. May these gifts be signs of our love and prayers, that through the sharing of the body and blood of Christ, all may know your grace and healing revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

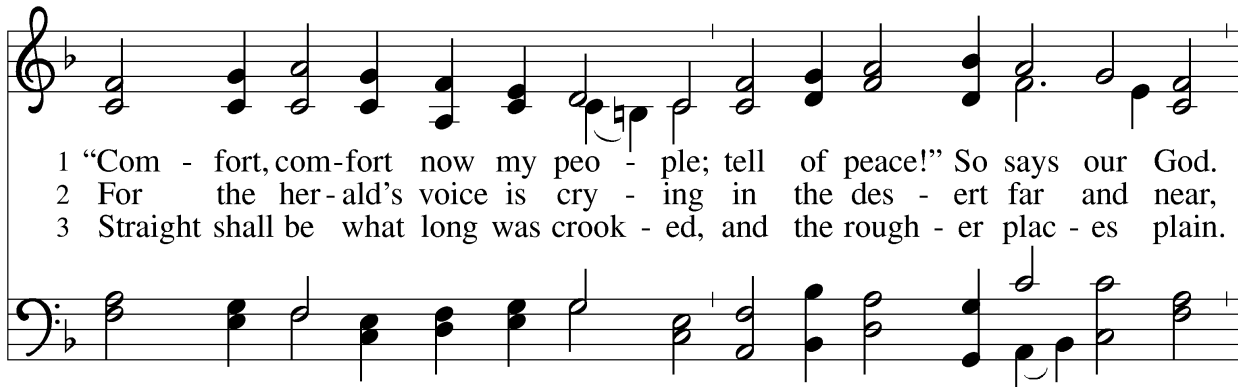
Comfort the homesick. Open your doors to others. Seek sanctuary. Be brave enough to go home by another way. And remember that here in God's house, all are welcomed—so come back soon. In the name of our Foundation—God, Spirit, and Son.

Amen.

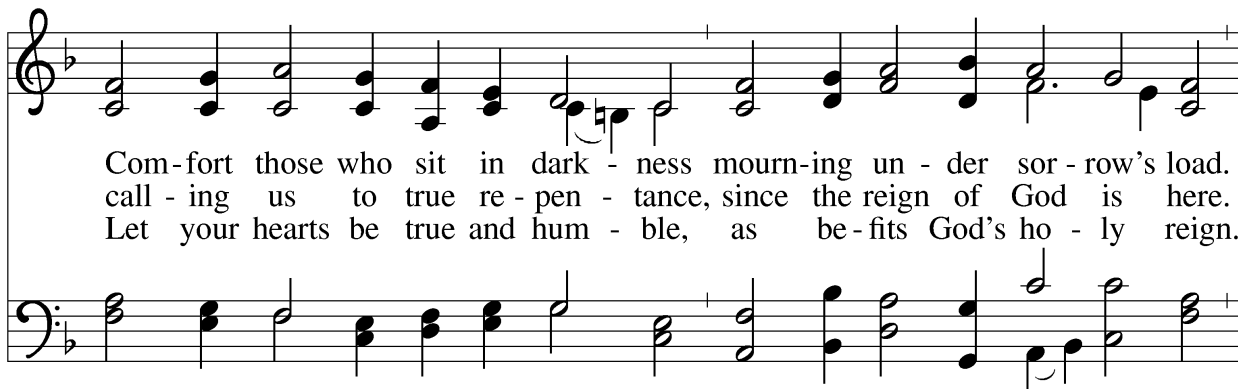
RECESSIONAL HYMN

Comfort, Comfort Now My People "Freu Dich Sehr"

ELW 256



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Please feel free to be seated for the Postlude.

POSTLUDE

Voluntary on 'Freu dich Sehr'

Paul Manz
(1919-2009)

*Please remain at your seat until the conclusion of the postlude
and the cross has returned to the chancel.*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

*Please continue to leave your bulletin, communion cup
and attendance sheet at your seat.*

We will collect everything following the service.

There is no coffee hour at this time.

Updates will be coming.



At 8:30 a.m. the announcer is Mary Linda Schmidt. Usher is Gail Camilleri. Altar guild is Gail Camilleri. Reader is Mary Linda Schmidt. Worship Assistant is Timothy Yap.

At 10:30 a.m. the announcer is Emily Notari. Reader is Timothy Flynn. Ushers are Paul Biesinger, Doug Alderdice, Paul and Karen Bauchle and Karen Kolb. Worship Assistants are Adam Hakansson, Max Hakansson, Morgan Leiser, Avery Best and Rowan Leiser.

The flowers on the altar are given:

In Loving Memory of Sarah and James Bigham and Cornelia Ball by James Bigham; and

A Happy 20th Anniversary to Sheila and Juan Perez with Love from Stephanie and Natalie.

As part of the Cherish All Children ministries, today's prayers of intercession include Elliott and Oliver Knoll.



Office Staff may be reached by phone daily Monday – Friday.

Please call the church office should you need anything.

As always, the Pastors are available by appointment.

We will continue to share information regarding life and worship at Holy Trinity. You can always check out the website for up-to-date information.

<i>THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY</i>

SUNDAY, December 5, 2021 – Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (CH)
 9:30 a.m. Youth Choir (MR)
 10:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (MC)
 10:30 a.m. Sunday School (SS)

MONDAY, December 6, 2021

9:30 a.m. Monday Morning Bible Study (FR)
 6:00 p.m. Gamblers' Anonymous (RH)
 7:00 p.m. Monday Evening Bible Study (FR)

TUESDAY, December 7, 2021

5:30 p.m. Burrito Project (RH)

WEDNESDAY, December 8, 2021

11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (RH)
 4:30 p.m. Christmas Tree Set-up (MC)

THURSDAY, December 9, 2021

10:00 a.m. Watercolor Class (RH)
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (MC)
 7:00 p.m. Story Time
 7:00 p.m. AA/AL-ANON (RH)

SUNDAY, December 12, 2021 – Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (MC)
 9:30 a.m. Youth Choir (MR)
 10:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion/Communion
 Celebration (MC)
 10:30 a.m. Sunday School (SS)
 12:00 p.m. Confirmation (FR)
 7:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols (MC)

CH = Mansperger Chapel
 FR = Fellowship Room
 MR = Music Room
 SC = Sacristy

CI = Crib Room
 FI = Fireside Room/Library
 PS = Pastor's Study
 SS = Sunday School

CR = Conference Room
 MC = Main Church
 RH = Redeemer Hall
 YR = Youth Room

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTOR CARROLL is at St. Lydia's Dinner Church in Brooklyn, NY today preaching at the installation of their new pastor, The Rev. Dr. Chris Scharen, PhD. Chris was Dr. Carroll's seminarian intern twenty years ago at Bethlehem Lutheran in Oakland, CA. Pastor Carroll will return to the office on Tuesday, December 7.

MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY continues in-person at 9:30am in the Fellowship Room. MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY also continues in-person from 7:00-8:00pm in the Fellowship Room. Pastor Brenda will be leading tomorrow's discussion on Christmas. All are welcome to attend.

COVID-19 UPDATE: Given the newly announced phased approach to limit the risk of transmission and infection in Erie County, the leadership of Holy Trinity is re-evaluating our current COVID protocols. This will continue to be an ongoing process. While the new mask mandate will not affect Sunday morning worship, it will affect how groups, committees, etc. meet and use the space at Holy Trinity. As with the mask mandate, effective November 23, all individuals, groups, committees entering the church will be required to wear a mask over their nose and mouth; who are age 2 or older and medically able to tolerate a mask. The council will continue to evaluate our protocols as new information is shared from the Erie County Department of Health. Please contact the church office for more information.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE: Holy Trinity's Evangelism Committee is re-organizing. Interested in having conversations around re-introducing Holy Trinity to her 4-distinct communities (east and west of Main Street)? Have an interest in looking at realistic ways to be about building relationships with the communities' residents? Please contact Pastor Carroll at drccarroll@holytrinitybuffalo.org.

HOLY CONVERSATIONS: Please pick up your copy of the November Holy Conversation summary located under the Kahler portrait next to the church office, on the upper table at the Main Street entrance or on the music stand on the Chapel side. Please feel free to contact the church office to have the document sent to you via electronic or postal mail.

Mark your calendar for the next Holy Conversation related to the perceived strengths and gifts of the new pastor on January 11 from 10-11:30am in the Fellowship Room and 7-8:30pm via Zoom

ANGEL TREE: Annually the members of HT generously provide gifts and holiday cheer to students from our local school PS 17 via the Angel Tree. This year both Angel and Mitten trees will be ready today. Please find them in the area outside the church office and chapel and choose a child to cheer this year. Gifts need to be wrapped, or bagged, and securely tagged with the students name and room number. Please be sure to drop off your gifts at Holy Trinity by December 19th.

LESSONS AND CAROLS: Holy Trinity and the University at Buffalo Choirs present our 4th Annual *Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*, Sunday, December 12th at 7:00 pm. Inspired by the renown Service from King's College - Cambridge, Congregational members share lessons with musical responses and Hymns led by our friends from the University of Buffalo, Claudia Brown, *conductor*. This is a unique partnership between the University at Buffalo and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

FAMILY PROMISE: The Welcome Home Basket collection for the Family Promise of WNY homeless shelter is complete. Many thanks to those who donated kitchen and household items.

BUDGET PRESENTATION AND EXPLANATION (Sunday, December 19, 2021; 9:30 am, Redeemer Hall) This session will detail the income and expenditures proposed for the upcoming year, along with a visual representation via graphs.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (Sunday, January 23, 2022; at the end of each worship service) Agenda items include: approval of the budget and candidates for council.

HOLIDAY BASKETS: The Fellowship & Hospitality Committee will be collecting food and cash donations for our holiday baskets. All non-perishable food items will be used for the baskets. Cash donations to help provide gift certificates can be sent to the church office and designated “holiday baskets”. Thank you for your donations.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Once again the congregation is being asked to contribute toward the purchase of poinsettias which will be placed in the chancel for Christmas. Flowers are \$12 each and may be given in memory or honor of someone. Order forms can be found at the entrance ways, in the newsletter or in the weekly email.

ALTAR FLOWERS Each Sunday, the beautiful vases of flowers gracing the chancel are often dedicated by members of our congregation in memory of or in honor of loved ones. Looking ahead, the following date has two vases available- January 30. Please contact Linda Schmidt with your request for this or any other specific date during the year. She can be reached at msmarylschmidt@gmail.com or 716-835-3325. Vases are currently \$40.00 each.

CRISIS SERVICES: For anyone feeling down, lonely or depressed, Crisis Services is working around the clock to respond to and combat the impact COVID-19 has on our community. Their hotline number is 834-3131 and are available 24-hours a day. If you are looking for counseling services, we share a partnership with Pat Greene, LMHC, and he may be reached at 716-361-4615.



CHURCH COUNCIL

The Nominating Committee is requesting your input for nominations to serve on the Church Council beginning after the Congregational Meeting January 23, 2022. If you are interested in serving (see below) please provide your name or another's name (with their approval) to either of the Pastors or council president, Barb Wozniak by December 10, 2021.

- Participate in the life of the congregation by serving on at least one committee.
- Assist with long range planning, goal setting and evaluation of activities.
- Seek to involve all members of the congregation in worship, learning, witness, and service.
- Support the staff of the congregation in their ministries.
- Promote a congregational climate of peace and goodwill.
- Be available for (9) monthly meetings and retreat time locally in February (Friday evening, Saturday). Meetings are currently held both in person and on Zoom.

2021 HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

8:30 a.m. Worship Service with Chapel Choir
10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Chancel Choir

CHRISTMAS EVE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 p.m. Family Service
***10:00 p.m. Preservice music**
10:30 p.m. Festival candlelight service of Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

10:30 a.m. Christmas service in the Chapel

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

8:30 a.m. Worship Service in the Chapel
10:30 a.m. Worship Service in the Main Church

***Note time change**

HOLY TRINITY LEADERSHIP

Congregational Council

Barb Wozniak, President
Emily Notari, Vice-President
Guy Huber, Treasurer
Jennifer Yap, Secretary

Matthew Brown, Kathy Crissey, Eliana Perez,
Juan Perez, Raúl Saona and Elizabeth Vihnanek

Staff Contacts for Programs and Services

Kristen Pomietlarz, Organist
Justin Pomietlarz, Choirmaster
kjpomietlarz@holytrinitybuffalo.org
Linda Lipczynski, Office Manager
Carol Littlefield, Parish Accountant
Judy Reifsteck, Faith Community Nurse (632-3448)
John Busch, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Charles Ryniec, Steward of Buildings and Grounds

The Rev. Brenda Maynor, Pastor
pastorbrenda@holytrinitybuffalo.org
The Rev. Dr. Julius Carroll, Intentional Interim Pastor
drcarroll@holytrinitybuffalo.org

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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